(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There is no 'ideal ratio' as such between the number of post offices and the population. However, the target adopted for the second U.N. development decade was one post office to serve 3000 to 6000 people on an average. As against this target, in India the average population served by a post office is 4745. As a matter of fact, post offices are sanctioned based on a variety of criteria which include not only the population factor but also the distance from the nearest existing post office, the assessment of postal traffic in the area and the likely cost to be incurred as well as the revenue expected to be earned.

(b) and (c) The change effected recently relates to the population norms to be followed in rural areas. Under the earlier norms, *inter alia*, a minimum population of 2000 was prescribed for opening a post office. In backward and tribal areas the required population of a village together with its hamlets was fixed as 1000. In the revised norms, a post office will be planned for a group of villages, the combined population of which should be 5000 in normal rural areas and 2500 in hilly, backward and tribal areas. Within this group, a suitable village will be selected for locating the post office.

Expansion of Postal and Telecommunication facilities

616. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes drawn up for the expansion of postal and telecommunication facilities in the rural areas during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) the progress made so far in this

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Postal: Through the successive Five-Year Plans, the Department has already built up a comprehensive rural postal network. At present there are 1,28,370 post offices functioning in rural areas. During the first two years of the Seventh Plan, namely 1985-86 and 1986-87, there was no programme of rural postal extension on account of the ban on creation of posts. The Ministry of Finance have since indicated special procedures for creation/filling up of posts required for implementation of Plan schemes. In pursuance thereof, the Deptt. has worked out norms and circles have been asked to carry out a fresh assessment in accordance with the norms. The proposals for post offices which satisfy the norms may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance for consideration.

Telecommunications: (a) 9,000 Long Distance Public Telephones are planned to be provided in the rural areas during the Seventh Plan.

(b) 3,067 Long Distance Public Telephones have been opened during the first two years of the seventh Plan.

Import of foreign technology for Railways

617. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of foreign techology is more beneficial for Indian Railways in developing high horse power electric locomotives, and

(b) if so, what are the shortcoming in indigenous technology and local manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The installed power of the existing electric locomotives is a maximum of 3900 KVA. The individual components/sub-assemblies/systemsare also of the vintage of the 1960's which have since been superseded abroad by new design concepts. With the proposed new technology it will be possible to overcome these limitations/ shortcomings.

Protest of doctors for Increasing Pay Scale in C.G. H.S.

618. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors of Central Government Health Services have reported to protests, demanding increased pay scales and better promotional avenues etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) A section of the Central Government Health Scheme doctors held a rally at the Boat Club on the 10th April, 1987. They have also submitted representations to the Government demanding one common scale of pay of Rs. 3000-4500 with only one portal of entry at the recruitment level, minimum three time bound promotions in the first fifteen years of service, introduction of private practice for Government doctors failing which Non-Practising Allowance @ 50 per cent of Basic pay, grant of conveyance allowance, special/difficult and Rural Area Allowance grant of Administrative Allowance/Teaching Allowance and Risk. Allowance, Special pay to Medical Officers in the scale of Rs. 3700-5000 as is admissible to officers in administrative Group 'A' services, enhancement of retirement age 62 to 65 years and merger of different sub-caders of Central Health Service into one.

Orders regarding rates of Non-Practising Allowance and Conveyance Allowance to Central Health Service doctors have not yet been issued by the Government. Other recommendations of IV Pay Commission regarding revised pay scales and increase of posts at certain levels have been accepted by the Government.

Representation by Frank Anthony Public School Employees' Association

619. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation dated 4-3-87 from the Frank Anthony Public School Employees' Association, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details of their demands;

(c) whether the same have been examined and considered; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and whether a decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The President of the Frank Anthony Public School Employees' Association, New Delhi has requested Government of India to see that the Management does not close down the said school and to help the employees to realise the benefit of pay scales and allowances as per the rules of Delhi Administration to which they are entitled under the Supreme Court Judgement dated 17-11-1986. The judgement of the Supreme Court is binding on all parties concerned. The Government of India has directed the Delhi Administration, which is the enforcement agency for schools, to have the dec-